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Meeting of the States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of the Child

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Programme budget implications of the enlargement of the membership of the Committee on the Rights of the Child from 10 to 18 members

I. Introduction

1. On 12 December 1995, the Conference of States parties to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, held in New York, in accordance with article 50, paragraph 1, of the Convention, adopted an amendment to article 43, paragraph 2, of the Convention, increasing the membership of the Committee on the Rights of the Child from 10 to 18 members.

2. In accordance with article 50, paragraph 2 of the Convention, "an amendment adopted in accordance with paragraph 1 of the present article [50] shall enter into force when it has been approved by the General Assembly of the United Nations and accepted by a majority of States parties".

3. In its resolution 50/155 of 21 December 1995, the General Assembly:

a. Approved the amendment to article 43, paragraph 2, of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, replacing the word "ten" with the word "eighteen";

b. Urged States parties to take appropriate measures so that acceptance by a two-third majority of the States parties can be reached as soon as possible in order for the amendment to enter into force.

4. Prior to the adoption of resolution 50/155, a statement of programme budget implications was submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly.[1] In paragraph 8 of this statement, the Assembly was informed that the enlargement of the Committee entailed programme budget implications but that no additional appropriation was needed at that time, and that the Secretary-General was to revert to the issue when the amendment was accepted by a two-thirds majority of States parties.

[1] A/C.5/50/46.

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5. On 18 November 2002, following its acceptance by two thirds of the States parties to the Convention (128 out of 191 States parties), the amendment to article 43, paragraph 2, of the Convention, increasing the number of the members of the Committee from ten to eighteen experts, entered into force. The terms of office of the eight members authorized by the amendment will begin on 1 March 2003. They will participate in the thirty-third and thirty-fourth sessions of the Committee which will be held at Geneva from 19 May to 6 June, and 15 September to 3 October 2003, respectively.

II. Indication of additional requirements

6. The Committee on the Rights of the Child currently consists of 10 members and normally holds three annual sessions of three weeks' duration each at Geneva. A pre-sessional working group also meets at Geneva for one week approximately two to three months in advance of each session. Travel and subsistence expenses are paid in connection with the participation of all 10 members of the Committee at the pre-sessional working groups and annual sessions. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 56/272 of 27 March 2002, the honoraria payable to each member of the Committee as of 6 April 2002, are set at a level of one United States dollar per year.

7. An appropriation of $786,900 is provided for in the biennium 2002-2003 for travel, subsistence allowance and honorarium for the current 10 members. No provision has yet been made for the additional eight members of the Committee.

8. For the biennium 2003-2003, an additional amount of $214,100 is required to provide for the additional travel, subsistence allowance and honorarium to enable the eight additional members of the Committee to participate in the thirty-third and thirty-fourth sessions of the Committee as well as the pre-sessional working group meetings. Requirements for the biennium 2004-2005 will be included in the proposed programme budget for that biennium.

III. Conclusions

In summary, the entry into force of the amendment to the Convention on the Rights of the Child would entail additional resource requirements of $214,100 for the biennium 2002-2003. These requirements will be sought in accordance with established budgetary procedures.